



**Arkansas
Department of
Human Services**

**Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive
Systems Initiative (AECCS)**



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF

Health

Keeping Your Hometown Healthy

**“Building Bridges----
From Birth To School”**



Family Support Work Group

The family plays a critical role in a young child’s development. Family income, parents’ educational level, parents’ emotional health, social networks, and general family health can all profoundly impact the well-being and development of a young child. All those who come in contact with young children must work together to optimize family health and the supports necessary for parents to be maximally effective as breadwinners, role models, and caregivers of young children.

Purpose:

The Family Support Work Group is committed to helping parents acquire the skills, social supports and community linkages that are needed to nurture and support the healthy development of their young children by starting early, and concentrating on delivering comprehensive family support services in a way that respects the diverse values and cultures of all Arkansas’ young children and families.

Membership:

The Family Support Work Group brings together child care professionals, perinatal and pediatric providers, higher education, early intervention, community health centers, health department, family representatives (parents, grandparents), local business employers, the faith community, statewide media, government agency staff and advocacy organizations.

Key Work Group Objectives:

- Increase public awareness, engaging statewide public media resources.
- Develop plans to integrate services for families, and increase accessibility of information, especially in underserved populations.
- Expand the range of family support to include perinatal care, in-home therapy, respite therapy, services to children at-risk for developmental delays, and support for families of children with physical health, mental health, and developmental disabilities.
- Develop statewide mechanism to expand available resources and enhance the family support workforce.